

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claim 14 has been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

OBJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-10

On page 3, numbered paragraph 5 of the Office action, the Examiner objected to claims 1-10 because the status identifiers were misspelled ("amened" should be "amended"). The current status of claims 1-10 is correctly spelled; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the claim objections be removed.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-13 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hazama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,611) (hereinafter "Hazama"). "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Hazama does not disclose all of the elements of claims 1-13; therefore the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The reference relied upon by the Examiner, Hazama, relates to an apparatus and a method of managing and distributing design and manufacturing information for the production of sheet metal components in a production facility. The design and manufacturing information associated with each customer's order, such as "part information, bend model data, feature extraction data, and bend line information," is organized and stored in a database such that it is accessible to a user in the production facility. Hazama, column 19, lines 4-24. The user is able to edit data (reference to the job number or batch size, and/or editing the dimensions of the part and the defined bend sequence) of a previous job in order to create a new job. Hazama, column 22, lines 4-19. Further, the user is able to modify and/or adapt integrated systems of the apparatus in order to perform specific bending operations. A 2-D or 3-D simulation of the specified bending operations and movement of a robot and related machinery is provided to the user on a robot simulation window display in order for the user to confirm the robot motion. Hazama, column 19, lines 4-24, column 42, lines 20-25.

Claim 1 of the present application recites, in part, "... means for storing the 3-D model of the robot and one or more 3-D models of a peripheral equipment, a machine, or a part, which is used in a system using the robot; and means for selecting one or more of the 3-D models stored in said storing means on the display screen; ..."

Storing “the 3-D model of the robot and one or more 3-D models of a peripheral equipment, a machine, or a part ...” is not disclosed by the data entry program of Hazama, as asserted by the Examiner on page 4, numbered paragraph 8 of the Office action. Instead, Hazama specifically discloses that the data that is transferred to a database of the data entry program includes “part information, bend model data, feature extraction data, and bend line information.” Hazama, column 19, lines 15-20. Although Hazama describes that other information may be stored in the database, such as 3-D image representations of a part, such information is used to develop and test a bending plan. Hazama, column 20, lines 11-43. Hazama does not teach or suggest storing 3-D models of the robot along with one or more 3-D models of peripheral equipment, a machine, or a part. Thus, although Hazama discloses storing 2-D and 3-D information in the data entry program, the information stored in the data entry program is not the same as the 3-D models stored in the present application.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon by the Examiner.

Independent claims 2, 3, 11, 12, and 13 each recite features similar to the features of claim 1 that patentably distinguish over the references relied upon by the Examiner.

Claim 2 recites, in part, “... means for storing the 3-D model of the robot and one or more 3-D models of a peripheral equipment, a machine, or a part, which is used in a system using the robot; and means for selecting one or more of the 3-D models stored in said storing means on the display screen ...”

Claim 3 recites, in part, “... first storing means for storing the 3-D model of the robot; second storing means for storing one or more 3-D models of a peripheral equipment, a machine, or a part, which is used in a system using the robot; means for selecting one or more of the 3-D models stored in said second storing means on the display screen; ...”

Claim 11 recites, in part, “... a storing unit to store the 3-D model of the robot and one or more 3-D models of a peripheral equipment, a machine, or a part, which is used in a system using the robot; and a selecting unit to select one or more of the 3-D models stored in the storing unit on the display screen ...”

Claim 12 recites, in part, “... a storing unit to store the 3-D model of the robot and one or more 3-D models of a peripheral equipment, a machine, or a part, which is used in a system using the robot; a selecting unit to select one or more of the 3-D models stored in the storing unit on the display screen; ...”

Claim 13 recites, in part, "... a first storing unit to store the 3-D model of the robot; a second storing unit to store one or more 3-D models of a peripheral equipment, a machine, or a part, which is used in a system using the robot; a selecting unit to select one or more of the 3-D models stored in the second storing unit on the display screen ..."

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, claims 2, 3, 11, 12, and 13 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon by the Examiner.

Claims 4-10 depend from independent claims 1-3 and patentably distinguish over the references relied upon by the Examiner for at least the foregoing reasons.

NEW CLAIM 14

Claim 14 is added and patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon by the Examiner and is supported by the originally filed specification.

Claim 14 relates to a graphic display apparatus for a robot system that displays and arranges one or more 3-D models of the robot system on a display screen, wherein "the one or more 3-D models ... is displayed and arranged on the display screen according to constraint conditions relating to at least one dimension line of the one or more 3-D models of the robot system." This feature, among others, is neither taught nor suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner. Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, approval of the newly added claim 14 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 14 has been added. Claims 1-14 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

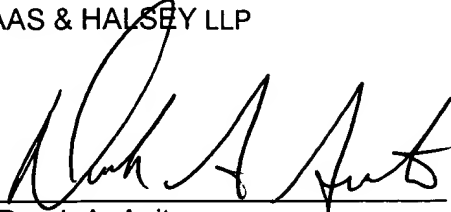
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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Derek A. Auito
Registration No. 52,576

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501